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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria/Germany/Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 4 May 1949 25X1A2a

SUBJECT USIA, Romanian, and Czechoslovak Procurement
of Ball Bearings from Bizonia

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25X1A6a

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Although fragmentary, the following report is submitted for the current interest in critical materials moving East.

1. Frau Schmied (fmu), a Swiss citizen living at the Hotel Krantz in Vienna, is reported to be expecting the arrival of 7 tons of ball bearings sizes 30313, 30316, and 30320 from Frankfurt am Main. The bearings are intended for USIA. Frau Schmied is reported to have agents in Vienna and Salzburg who are attempting to develop contacts on the border to help smuggle the bearings into Austria. According to Frau Schmied, these contacts are difficult to establish at present.
2. Engineer Schienecker (fmu) of the firm of Dr. Straube in Salzburg, is reported to be mediating a ball bearing transaction for the Marglov (sic) company in Vienna, on behalf of the Romanian armament industry. According to source, 5,000 tons of bearings for the Romanian Government are hidden in Berchtesgaden or Bad Reichenhall, awaiting a safe means of transportation to Austria.
3. The Czechoslovak firm Omnipol is also reported to be awaiting a safe method of bringing ball bearings across the border from Germany. The transaction is being handled by Meyerhofer (fmu), a representative of the Arbos*(sic) textile company. Austria.

25X1A6a

Comment: This firm is possibly identical with the Arbos Transit company which is reported to be a cover firm for the Austrian Communist Party.

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